THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourists interests is primarily undertaken by the Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) on the basis of project proposals received from them, complete in all respects subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority every year under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations/Circuits

(ii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects

(iii) Fairs/Festivals/Events

(iv) Information Technology

A total of 514 projects with an amount of Rs. 155307.55 lakh had been sanctioned to States/Union Territory Administrations during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09 for integrated development of tourism. The efforts of the Ministry of Tourism resulted in 5.37 million (provisional) Foreign Tourist Arrivals and USD 11747 million (estimated) Foreign Exchange Earnings in 2008.

Tourism Villages

3603. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Tourism Villages at appropriate places to attract tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of Tourism including Rural Tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development in rural sites having core-competency in art, craft, culture, handlooms/textiles etc. Community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are supported through Government of India-United Nations Development Programmes Endogenous Tourism Project and Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry.

So far 142 projects for Rs. 8742.70 lakh have been sanctioned for development and promotion of Rural Tourism in the country.

Tourism proposals from Karnataka

3604. SHRI RAJVEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals/requests submitted by the State Government of Karnataka to the Centre for improving and expanding tourism in the State and for receiving financial assistance, as on 1st August, 2009; and

(b) the details in each case and by when each of them is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The following project proposals have been received in the Ministry of Tourism from the Govt. of Karnataka :

Sl. No.	Name of the project
1.	Destination development of Alamatti Dam, Bijapur District
2.	Destination development at Amir Barid Tombs, Bidar District
3.	Destination development at Bidar Fort, Bidar District
4.	Destination development at Sleeping Buddha Hills, Gulbarga District
5.	Development of Eco tourism Park at Kaginele, Haveri District
6.	Destination development works under Restoration of Magadi Fort, Magadi, Town, Bangalore.
7.	Destination development at Gulbarga, Gulbarga District
8.	Destination development at Vanivilas Sagar Dam in Chitradurga District
9.	Destination Development at Chaukhkhandi and Ashtoor Tombs, Bidar District
10.	Destination development of Satyagraha Soudha at Vidhuraswatha
11.	Development of tourism infrastructure in Temple Tourism Circuit of North Karnataka
12.	Development of infrastructure Malnad circuit at Hossur Chikamagalure and Shimoga District

Project proposals that are complete in all respects, are appraised as per scheme guidelines on *inter-se*-priority and funds sanctioned, subject to availability under the respective head.

The Project Destination Development of Satyagraha Soudha at Vidhuraswatha has been sanctioned for Rs. 296.59 lakh during the current financial year 2009-10.

Religious tourist places

†3605. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the religious tourist places of India like Haridwar (Har ki Paudi), Rishikesh, Neelkanth, Badrinath are full of dirt due to which tourists have to face a lot of problem;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.